

9-7-1990

## Western Hemisphere of 'Pictures at an Exhibition' Slated at UD

Follow this and additional works at: [https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news\\_rls](https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls)

---

### Recommended Citation

"Western Hemisphere of 'Pictures at an Exhibition' Slated at UD" (1990). *News Releases*. 7069.  
[https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news\\_rls/7069](https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/7069)

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Marketing and Communications at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in News Releases by an authorized administrator of eCommons. For more information, please contact [frice1@udayton.edu](mailto:frice1@udayton.edu), [mschlangen1@udayton.edu](mailto:mschlangen1@udayton.edu).



## *The University of Dayton*

## *News Release*

### WESTERN HEMISPHERE DEBUT OF 'PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION' SLATED AT UD

DAYTON, Ohio, Sept. 7, 1990--"Pictures at An Exhibition," a multi-media showcase of Russian music and art, has been performed only twice -- in 1928 at Bauhaus in Dessau, Germany, and in 1984 to invited guests in Rome.

The University of Dayton will stage the first production in the Western Hemisphere at 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 21, in the Kennedy Union Boll Theatre. UD faculty members will showcase Vassily Kandinsky's paintings and Modest Mussorgsky's music in a presentation that fuses colors, sounds, rhythm and movement. Admission is free and open to the public.

Linda Snyder, chair of the music department and producer of the project, describes "Pictures at an Exhibition" as "one of a kind." Faculty members involved in the production are Darrell Anderson, technical theater instructor; Jeni Engel-Conley, dance instructor and staging director; Elena Letnanova, associate professor of music; Terry Hitt, assistant professor of fine arts; and Tim Wilbers, assistant professor of photography.

UD's production of "Pictures at an Exhibition" will incorporate Kandinsky's paintings on computerized slides with blown-up, retouched photographs that will be carried around the stage by five dancers. According to Letnanova, associate professor of music and artistic director of the piece, the paintings and technical effects will correspond to the 16 scenes in Mussorsky's music. "Each scene has its own rhythm and its own color," said Letnanova, who saw the production in Rome and applied for an ArtsDayton grant to present it at UD.



754(1)

Letnanova will perform the original version of the work, composed for solo piano by Mussorgsky in 1874 in Petrograd.

Kandinsky was keenly interested in exploring Richard Wagner's concept of creating a "gesamtkunstwerk," or total work, by combining different art forms into one complete artistic endeavor.

Kandinsky chose the colors in his paintings to reflect the contrasts in Mussorgsky's music. Conversely, Mussorgsky composed his cycle of character pieces, "Pictures at an Exhibition," after viewing an art exhibition by his friend, Victor Hartman.

The multi-media production of "Pictures at an Exhibition" is funded by ArtsDayton, UD's music department and the College of Arts and Sciences.